

Study of biodiversity in land snail and their conservation

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Snail diversity, often associated with high levels of snail endemism, is concentrated in tropical rainforest. Fragmentation, loss and transformation of tropical forests and the introduction of alien species have caused most of the current wave of snail extinctions and many snail faunas are threatened. Some 'weed species' of snails are serious agricultural pests and some snails are vectors of human pathogens. In addition to being of considerable value as sensitive indicators of habitat quality and indicators of centres of biotic diversity and endemism, by any measure, land snails are a high priority for conservation in their own right. The problem is that there are few snail taxonomists and snails are rarely included in biodiversity and conservation programmes. Our aim is to facilitate and promote the study of land snails as key elements of the biota for both understanding and conserving biological diversity, especially in biologically rich areas of the world where diversity is under greatest threat.

KEY WORDS:

Biotic, Conservation, endemism, Taxonomy